

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18, 23, 25, and 26 through 42 are pending in the instant patent application. Claims 1 through 17, 19 through 22, and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice to file a divisional patent application directed to those claims. This renders moot the rejection of those claims. Applicant states herein that the applicant does not agree with the rejection of those claims and by canceling the claims, applicant is simply taking the allowable subject matter to advance prosecution of this matter. Applicant is not surrendering, by cancellation of the claims, the scope of protection of those claims.

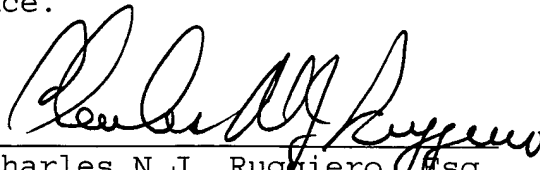
Applicant expresses appreciation to the Office that claim 25 is allowed.

In the Action, claims 18 and 23 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has so amended claims 18 and 23. Applicant has also added new dependent claims 26 through 42 that are patentable because these claims depend from allowable claim 18.

Serial No.: 10/758,602
Art Unit: 3732

It is respectfully submitted that the present pending claims are clearly patentable over each cited reference and the cited combinations of the same. Thus, this application is in condition for issuance.

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